

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 064030

61

ORIGIN PM-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 MC-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 ACDA-19 GAC-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01

EB-11 OMB-01 COME-00 /150 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ MAS - JHMADDEN/ PM/ MC - JHDARBY: CT

4/5/73: X22571

APPROVED BY PM/ MAS - CHRISTIAN A. CHAPMAN

EUR/ EE - MR. KAISER

EUR/ WE - MR. JOHNSON

PM/ MC - MR. DARBY

INR/ RSG - MR. PALMER

AF/ RA - COL GRIFFIN

AF/ N - MR. CLARK

DOD/ ISA - CMDR. KURTH (SUBST)
----- 002054

R 061808 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064030

E. O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MCAP XF YO LY

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV ARMS SALES TO " PALESTINIAN AIR FORCE"

REFS: (A) TRIPOLI 317 (NOTAL); (B) BELGRADE 1153 (NOTAL)

1. BELL AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURED LIMITED NUMBER OF PISTON-
DRIVEN RANGER HELICOPTERS IN EARLY 1960' S; SINCE THAT TIME
BELL HAS BEEN PRODUCING TURBOPROP JETRANGER HELICOPTERS.
THERE IS NO RECORD THAT EITHER AIRCRAFT EVER SHIPPED
DIRECTLY FROM US TO YUGOSLAVIA (OR TO LIBYA). REVIEW IN
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PAGE 02 STATE 064030

DEPARTMENT AND WITH OTHER WASHINGTON AGENCIES OF YUGOSLAV MILITARY REPEAT MILITARY INVENTORY DOES NOT REVEAL PRESENCE OF ANY RANGERS OR JETRANGERS. AVAILABLE INFORMATION INDICATES LIBYANS MAY HAVE IN THEIR ORDER OF BATTLE AS MANY AS 5 RANGERS OBTAINED FROM FRG, AND 4 JETRANGERS OBTAINED FROM ITALY. DATES THESE AIRCRAFT WERE OBTAINED NOT KNOWN, AND IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW MANY ARE STILL OPERATIONAL.

2- DEPT'S OFFICE OF MUNITIONS CONTROL UNDER ITAR REQUIREMENTS (10 FAM 124) APPROVED IN 1966 BELL HELICOPTER COMPANY LICENSING AGREEMENT FOR MANUFACTURE OF JETRANGERS BY AUGUSTA CORPORATION IN ITALY WITH SALES TERRITORY TO INCLUDE YUGOSLAVIA. UNDER TERMS OF THAT AGREEMENT AUGUSTA IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN PRIOR USG APPROVAL FOR SALE OF HELICOPTERS TO YUGOSLAVIA OR ANY OTHER THIRD COUNTRY.

SUCH APPROVAL WAS REQUESTED AND GRANTED FOR SALE OF ONE JETRANGER IN 1969, ONE IN 1972 AND ONE IN 1973; ALL REQUESTS WERE FOR COMMERCIAL RPT COMMERCIAL END- USE. IN EACH CASE WRITTEN ASSURANCES RECEIVED FROM YUGOSLAV COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE THAT NO FURTHER SALE OR TRANSFER WOULD BE MADE WITHOUT USG APPROVAL. ASSURANCES GIVEN BY IMPORT DIVISION, ISKRA COMMERCE, KRANJ, YUGOSLAVIA. THERE HAVE BEEN NO SUBSEQUENT YUGOSLAV REQUESTS TO TRANSFER JETRANGERS TO LIBYA OR ELSEWHERE.

3. ALTHOUGH APPROVAL GRANTED AND YUGOSLAV ASSURANCES RECEIVED FOR TRANSFER OF TOTAL OF THREE JETRANGERS, WE HAVE NO RECORD WHETHER AUGUSTA- YUGOSLAV TRANSACTION EVER CONCLUDED, AND WHETHER AIRCRAFT WERE ACTUALLY SHIPPED. REPRESENTATIVE AT ITALIAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY OFFICE WASHINGTON UNABLE TO CONFIRM WHETHER ANY JETRANGERS SENT BY AUGUSTA TO YUGOSLAVIA.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY ROME DISCREETLY INQUIRE OF AUGUSTA BELL WHETHER JETRANGERS HAVE BEEN SHIPPED TO YUGOSLAVIA OR DIRECTLY TO LIBYA. (FYI REF A NOT SENT TO ROME CONTAINS REPORT THAT 8 BELL " RANGER" HELICOPTERS ALLEGEDLY SENT FROM YUGOSLAVIA TO LIBYA IN 1972 TO BE USED FOR TRAINING PALESTINIAN PILOTS. REF B INDICATES EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION THAT ANY BELL HELICOPTERS EVER DELIVERED TO

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PAGE 03 STATE 064030

YUGOSLAVIA END FYI). ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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